



MUSIC TAKES ACTION



Music Takes Action

JLE Benefit Event at the Erie Art Museum
more on page 6

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FROM THE EDITOR

the Leaguer

For the past few months, our JLE lives have revolved around our Music Takes Action initiative, which is evident throughout the content of this issue! We'd like to thank all of the contributors for their submissions and hope that you enjoy reading them as much as we enjoy sharing them with you!

Wishing you a warm and wonderful holiday season,

Mary Smiecinski
Lauren Williams

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The Leaguer is a quarterly eNewsletter, distributed via email in March, June, September & December. It is also available as a PDF download.

With distribution solely online, please make sure that we have the most up-to-date email address on record for you so that you do not miss a beat!

Have a great idea for an article/column?

We're all ears! We are always open to submissions and suggestions. Please email correspondence to: newsletter@juniorleagueoferie.com

From the President Elect

contributed by Nicole Buzzard

I wanted to share my recent messages from the universe as I thought it was a very fitting and correct for us Junior Leaguers...

"It's Thursday(!!), and Thursday's are ALWAYS awesome! Great things happen on Thursdays in the physical, and magical things happen in spirit too. Players, circumstances, and facts are all being aligned to brighten and lighten THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. Hmm...wonder what goodies are in store for you today...what surprises...what coincidences and accidents? Something to think about.

Tallyho, The Universe"

"This New Year will not be just another new year. It's the absolute richest I've ever imagined, with the most possibilities I've ever offered, for the coolest people I've known to do the greatest things they've ever done. Set the bar high,
The Universe"

Happy New Year!

From the Secretary

contributed by Amanda Lasky

Dues statements will be mailed out in January, along with a form to update your contact information. Please make sure that all of your info is correct and return promptly as we are planning to have new red books produced and distributed at our Annual Meeting in May.

2016-17 Advertising Rates

The advertising rates below include ad space in each of our four issues in the 2016 distribution year which are distributed via email to 160+ subscribers and available online for download. Please email newsletter@juniorleagueoferie.com to reserve ad space for your business.

1/2 page	\$250*
1/4 page	\$125*
Business Card Size	\$75*

*25% discount available for Junior League Member Businesses.

From the Treasurer

contributed by Mary Smiecinski

We've had an exciting and busy fall preparing and hosting the first Music Takes Action benefit event! The benefit was a success, and we are so proud of the MTA committee, their dedication and hard work was evident in every detail. It was truly a wonderful evening! While we did not reach our initial goal of raising \$7,500 for the program at Saint Benedict Center, I'm happy to report that we raised over \$1,400 and are continuing our efforts in order to meet our original goal.

If you were unable to attend Music Takes Action and would still like to contribute to it's success, I encourage you to donate to the cause!

I'd like to share with you a few new ways that you can continue to support the Junior League of Erie and it's mission:



Shop to donate

We have recently created an eBay for Charity account where any seller can list items and donate a portion of sales to the JLE. We've listed classroom and experience items to donate to MTA, starting at just \$5. 100% of the proceeds from these purchases go to the MTA initiative. You can browse our NEW eBay Charity Store at www.juniorleagueoferie.com/shop.



Donate via PayPal

We have recently been granted charity status on PayPal and have enrolled in the PayPal Giving Fund which allows us to accept donations without incurring any processing fees. You can donate through the PayPal Giving Fund by visiting www.juniorleagueoferie.com/donate.



Shop with a Smile

We have also recently signed up for Amazon Smile. Amazon Smile has the same great products that amazon.com has, but when you shop at smile.amazon.com and designate the Junior League of Erie as a charity to support, Amazon will donate 0.5% of all sales to the us (at no cost to you). Please consider us when you are doing your online shopping at Amazon!

2016-17 Board of Directors

President

Aileen Baxter

President Elect

Nicole Buzzard

Recording Secretary

Amanda Lasky

Treasurer

Mary Smiecinski

MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

Active Members	15
Sustainers	77
Sustainer Emeritus	22

UPCOMING DATES

January

5th	Holiday Social
19th	BOD

February

2nd	GMM
16th	BOD

March

2nd	GMM
16th	BOD

April

6th	GMM
20th	BOD



Dress from the Heart
JLE Holiday Party & Open House
Thursday January 5, 2017 • 6-8pm
Watson Curtze Mansion

**You're invited! Bring an outfit for a fun
Dress & Donate contest!**

Pictures from each participant will be posted to our Facebook page for a social media contest in the following three categories:

1. Best closet find
2. Best outfit under \$10
3. Best outfit under \$25

All outfits will be donated to Dress for Success. Winners will be announced on February 2nd and will receive a small token from the JLE Board.

Food and drink will be provided.
Cost: \$10 for members. Guests & visitors are free!

#JLEDressFromTheHeart



Follow us on Instagram
@juniorleagueoferie

Be sure to tag us using **#jlerie**

JLE rejoins the Council of Women's Organization

contributed by Nicole Buzzard,
President-Elect



The Council of Women's Organizations (CWO) of Erie began in October of 1950 when the leaders of four Erie women's organizations met to form the council. The original organizations were the Junior League of Erie, AAUW, League of Women Voters and the Women's Club of Erie.

The primary purpose of the Council of Women's Organizations is to establish a communication network among its member organizations. This network allows members the opportunity to know the purpose and goals of fellow member organizations, to maintain cooperative relationships and to share events, programs, speakers, study groups, or survey reports. Through this network, member organizations can communicate with each other to exchange ideas, offer moral support, and strengthen the ability to attain mutual goals.

Membership is open to any and all women's organizations in Erie County and there will be a rotation of chairmanships so that each organization will have the opportunity to lead the group.

The Junior League of Erie has rejoined this organization this year hoping to use the membership to get the JLE's name back out into the community and as a venue to distribute information on our upcoming events to other women organizations. Two JLE members, Danielle Almendinger & Nicole Buzzard, became members of this organization for their organizational year of September to May. We look forward to working with these other amazing women and sharing the JLE with them.

JLE in the News

Our President-Elect, Nicole Buzzard, was recently interviewed on the Millcreek Township Government Channel! She spent time talking about the history of the Junior League of Erie and promoting our current Music Takes Action initiative.

You can view the interview online at

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_BKSsq09LL4

Upcoming Events

■ JL Events ■ Community Events

JANUARY

5

JLE Holiday Party & Open House
@ Watson Curtze Mansion
6-8 pm
(see invite on page 4)

11

Coffee & Doughnuts*
@ The Erie Playhouse
10-11am
Learn about the Erie Community Foundation's 2017 Grantmaking Programs, The Nonprofit Partnership, The Giving Pledge and more!

12

Grant Application Workshop*
@ Blasco Library, Admiral Room
1-3pm
** The Erie Community Foundation
RSVP by Jan 6 to Donna Buseck
at 814-454-0843 or dbuseck@eriecommunityfoundation.org*

MARCH

18

Save the Date: Liberty Learning Exchange
The Junior League of Philadelphia
(details forthcoming)

20

Save the Date: A Fun Night Out!
Council of Women's Organizations
Women's History Month Celebration
(details forthcoming)





An Evening of Music, Food and Fun for a Great Cause

contributed by Lauren Williams

On Wednesday, November 30th at the Erie Art Museum, the Junior League of Erie hosted its first ever fundraising event in support of its Music Takes Action initiative. Music Takes Action is the League's focus area for 2016 and beyond. Its mission is to support and sustain the Erie Philharmonic's long term residency program at St. Benedict's Child Development Center, which brings music to under-served pre-schoolers in downtown Erie.

The Music Takes Action partnership was first proposed to the League by JLE member and Erie Philharmonic bassoonist Sarah Lee, who leads the program at St. Ben's, bringing music and Erie Phil musicians to the children three times a week for twenty weeks. The curriculum consists of three units: rhythm, singing, and the orchestra, and culminates with a trip to see the Philharmonic perform at the Warner Theatre.

The Junior League of Erie's enthusiasm for this program could be seen in full force at the November 30th recital and cocktail reception. Guests were exposed to the objective of Music Takes Action, and were even able to view a "mock classroom" while enjoying cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and the company of the JLE ladies. The hour long reception was immediately followed by an intimate recital by a string quartet comprised of Erie Philharmonic musicians Ji Young Nam, Meredith Riley, Erica Snowden, and Ken Johnston. A highlight of the evening, emceed by WQLN's Brian Hannah, were the words shared with the audience by Maestro Daniel Meyer and the Philharmonic musicians about the formative role of music in their own childhoods.

In 2017 and beyond, the JLE intends to maintain its partnership with the Erie Phil and continue to grow

Amanda Lasky (JLE Secretary) and Shellie DelleCurti welcome guests at the reception table

Jennifer Laskowski (left) serves up the JLE Signature Drink (Wine & Beer were donated by Mazza Wines)



Music Takes Action in commensuration with community need. This amazing initiative brings music and hands-on learning experiences to the children of migrant workers, recent immigrants, and refugees. Music Takes Action promotes music appreciation while simultaneously aiding in early literacy and language development. As a St. Ben's staff member explained: "Poverty affects a child's development and educational outcomes beginning in the earliest years of life...The opportunity to learn about music may seem small, but music opens doors for learning. Music education helps children feel safe, opens doors to explore other learning areas, and provides many children a break from an otherwise potentially stressful life".

The Junior League of Erie is proud to be a part of this worthwhile endeavor.

If you were unable to attend Music Takes Action, you can still support this important initiative:

- 1 **Mail a check to:**
Junior League of Erie
PMB 304
1903 W. 8th Street
Erie, PA 16505

- 2 **Donate online:**
www.juniorleagueoferie.com/donate

- 3 **Shop our eBay Charity Store**
We've listed much needed classroom items in our eBay store. For as little as \$5, you can purchase these items and we will donate them to the residency program. All proceeds go to the Music Takes Action initiative:
www.juniorleagueoferie.com/shop

Every little bit helps!



Nicole Buzzard (President Elect) and Sarah Latimer, stationed at the JLE table



Aileen Baxter (President, right) having fun with friends in the photo booth.



The Acoustic Duo, Delaware Gap, performed during cocktail hour



Guests could purchase items to donate in the mock classroom.



Teaching Artist & Junior League Member, Sarah Lee, reading to the children at Saint Benedict Center



The children made ornaments to auction at the Music Takes Action event

About the Long-term Residency at St. Benedict Center

contributed by Sarah Lee, Active Member and Teaching Artist

Beginning this past Fall, the Erie Philharmonic began to visit classrooms at St. Ben’s Child Development Center in our first ever Long Term Residency. Instead of reaching students just a few times a year as done in the past, teaching artist Sarah Lee (JLE Active Member) visits the center 3 times a week, totaling 60 times between August and February. This long-term residency has many goals, but the main mission is to create positive musical experiences that promote early music appreciation and early literacy skills in young students, preparing them for success in school and beyond. Strengthening this emphasis on continued arts infusion, the Philharmonic aims to bring music into pre-kindergarten classes in order to aid language and literacy development as well as organizing and applying knowledge through creative thinking.

The project is funded through the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts. “The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is pleased to approve Erie Philharmonic’s long term residency grant,” said Philip Horn, PCA executive director. “This collaboration will bring teaching artists and the creative process into unique partnerships with educators, schools and non-profit community organizations benefiting our schools and student learning.”

Teaching Artist Sarah Lee has led the Philharmonic’s outreach and education programs previously, so this is a natural step forward to reach more students with an expansive curriculum. Lee spent the summer creating lessons that focus on rhythm, movement, singing, and instrument identification, all centered on literacy, exploration, and fine motor skills. “We will work to achieve a series of standard-based goals. This 20-week, 60-day residency will reach over 60 students and includes visiting guest artists from the Philharmonic as well as a recent trip to see the orchestra perform live in the historic Warner Theatre,” says Lee, also a musician with the Philharmonic. The program also includes professional development on arts infusion for all teachers at the center. Executive Director Steve Weiser is excited to look to the future and ensure the Philharmonic is truly living their mission. “I’m honored that the PA Council on the Arts supports our residency at St. Benedict. The Philharmonic has been doing similar but smaller programs there for a few years, but this is significantly larger and will carry a greater long-lasting impact for the students at St. Ben’s,” Weiser said. “I take this program as a vote of confidence from the state – we know we are doing great things, but we are also one of the first to receive this type of funding directly from the state.”



Accordion day at the LTR

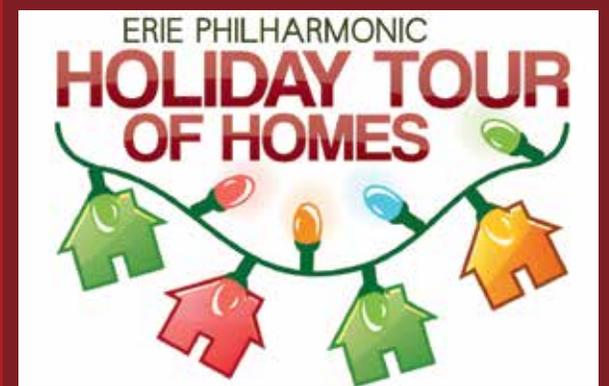


Trombone Day at the LTR

Home for the Holidays

contributed by Mary Smiecinski

On the weekend of November 5-6, Junior League members volunteered at the Erie Philharmonic's Holiday Tour of Homes, an annual event in which houses are decorated for the holidays by local florists & designers and open for public tours. Becky Moore, Lauren Williams, Sarah Lee and Mary Smiecinski were stationed at the beautiful Rutkowski house in Millcreek. The JLE used the opportunity to promote the JLE and our Music Takes Action benefit by handing out flyers and inviting guests to the event.



Mary Smiecinski (JLE Treasurer) & Sarah Lee (Active Member)



Becky Moore & Lauren Williams (Active Members)



On October 25, two JLE members attended Nonprofit Day, sponsored by the Nonprofit Partnership.

One of the main takeaways from the event seemed to be that the nature of donations and the mindset of donors are changing. People are less likely to give to an organization just to contribute to general funding. Instead donors like to see what their money is doing, how their funds are being used to contribute to the mission of each charity. In 2011, only 25% of donors were giving based on the result their money would have. Today that amount has nearly doubled to 41%. This is also leading to more long-term partnerships between donors and organizations. Nonprofits have to start thinking in terms of financing with donors, rather than just fundraising. Financing is not a one and done donation, instead contributors are providing funds for a longer term, which includes all costs associated with their programs.

A key element to getting donors to contribute to an organization's funding is communication. Truly effective communication is more than just the words you speak, it also involves the actions you take. Being positive is important, as it has a profound impact on what we tell others and now a point comes across. Always be honest and accountable for your actions. By accepting blame for a mistake and moving on you can establish your credibility and lead to better long term relationships.

Thinking ahead and being prepared, as well as being a little creative, can really help when talking with potential donors by conveying confidence and providing solutions to roadblocks. Other easy ways to increase the effectiveness of your communication are to have a sense of humor, be kind, and to show others empathy. Everyone has your own concerns and issues going on in their life and it's important to understand that.

Another important component that will enable an organization to connect with donors is the use of a simple mission moment. This is a short story that all members of the charity can easily learn and then use when talking about the organization. This story will be the easiest and quickest way for everyone to convey your message to potential investors, or in our case new members. Some other important elements that each organization should have are a strategic plan, an organizational budget, and both a marketing and fundraising plan. These are all documents that will help you determine where your charity is headed, how much it will cost to get there, and where you're getting the money from.

And finally, leadership is a crucial component in any organization. Great leaders are like magnets. They



JLE Rewind

have the ability to draw others into their field and are then able to maximize the strengths of people around them. Effective leadership will work to be consistent in all aspects of their work. They can see the potential in others and help to bring it out. These people are seed planters, because they can plant an idea in your head and you can learn from it and grow. In the nonprofit sector, leaders need to concentrate on several areas to achieve social and lasting change in a community. Individual values must be evaluated to determine if a program or initiative will benefit the individuals it will be affecting. Expanding outwards, you must also look at the groups values and see if this is something that will benefit the group as a whole. And finally the community values must be considered. If your project is mutually beneficial to all three of these areas then there is a much greater likelihood that the change you are hoping to create will actually be lasting and carry on, even after your organization has moved on to other projects.

contributed by Sarah Latimer



Mary Smiecinski (JLE Treasurer) & Sarah Latimer (Member) representing the Junior League of Erie at Nonprofit Day

The Junior League of Erie has a rich history of supporting music education in Erie with their support of the Junior Philharmonic Orchestra, an orchestral training group.

In 1963, the Junior League of Erie was approached by the Junior Phil's music directors for advice and assistance regarding how to add more fun and lightheartedness into the lives of their hardworking student musicians.

The JLE's purpose was to provide occasional treats, to arrange for public concerts, and to assist the conductor and business manager in determining the needs of the orchestra. They arranged the first "Day of Music" where the Junior Orchestra would travel to area schools to perform. The benefits were twofold, it was great practice for the musicians and great exposure to music for the hosting schools.

They also planned and sponsored an annual "Parents' Night" where parents were invited to sit in on a rehearsal to witness what their children were accomplishing.

The Junior League of Erie is also responsible for fundraising and sponsoring a series of workshops that allowed the young musicians to gain additional training with their particular instruments.





Junior League of Erie
PMB 304
1903 W. 8th Street
Erie, PA 16505

www.juniorleagueoferie.com

 Follow us on Facebook!

You're Invited! *Details on page 4*



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JLE Holiday Party & Open House

Thursday January 5, 2017 • 6-8pm

Watson Curtze Mansion

